

with the 10th edition of Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae*, published in 1758. However, Linnaeus had started to give names to butterflies earlier than this. By 1758 he had decided that the larger butterflies should, for the most part, be called after characters in classical history or mythology, and he therefore changes some of the names he had already proposed. With regard to the red admiral, he had called it *Ammiralis* in the first edition of *Fauna Suecica* (1746), but altered it to *atalanta* in 1758 to comply with his new policy.

The word 'admiral' is derived from the Arabic 'amir-al-bahr' meaning 'lord of the sea'. This was Latinised 'ammiralis' and the word later confused with the Latin adjective 'admirabilis'. In 1746 Linnaeus called the silver-washed fritillary '*Imperator*', the general, the dark green fritillary '*Rex*', the king, the pearl-bordered fritillary '*Princeps*', the prince, the Queen of Spain fritillary '*Principissa*', the princess and the Glanville fritillary '*Comes*', the count. His names were all nouns, spelt with a capital letter, none of them adjectives. It is certain that by '*Ammiralis*' he intended the meaning 'admiral' and not 'admirable'. Incidentally, the name 'painted lady' also hales from the 1746 edition of *Fauna Suecica*, where Linnaeus calls it '*Belladonna*', beautiful lady (with cosmetic undertones), as does 'the peacock' which he called '*Oculus pavonis*', the peacock's eye. The 1758 name '*io*' has only a roundabout connection with the peacock. Io was beloved by Zeus and when this caused trouble with his jealous wife Hera he metamorphosed Io into a heifer and entrusted her to the care of Argus who had a hundred eyes; after Argus had been killed, his eyes were placed in the peacock's tail. We also owe 'death's head hawk-moth' (*Acherontia atropos* Linnaeus, 1758) to one of Linnaeus' earlier essays in nomenclature, for he originally named it '*Caput mortuum*' (*Amoenitates Academicæ* 3: 321). A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AF.

DARK CRIMSON UNDERWING (*CATOCALA SPONSA* L.) IN WEST SUSSEX . — On the evening of the 8th August 1986, having set up my m.v. light at a coastal location not far from Littlehampton, I was most surprised to have a *sponsa* land at my feet, as it was not yet dark, and the sugaring had yet to be completed.

After boxing the apparently exhausted specimen, I began to ponder as to where it came from ! It flew in from the south, but all there was in that direction was sea — so was it a wanderer from another county, which had run out of land and turned back, or could it possibly have been an immigrant?

As this species has not been recorded from West Sussex for many years, I'd be most interested to hear any views other readers might have. — SEAN ODELL, 43 North Street, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1DU.